

To the Management –

If you care about the HEALTH of your CUSTOMERS and the HEALTH OF THE EARTH,
PLEASE reconsider the use of STYROFOAM and single-use plastic utensils.

- Polystyrene (Styrofoam), contains the chemical Styrene, a neurotoxin which has also been linked to cancer as well as vision, hearing, and memory impairment.
- Polystyrene containers can leech the chemicals into food, and then into our bodies, especially when hot foods are placed in these containers.
- Polystyrene is not recyclable. It goes to landfill where it creates methane gas emissions as it degrades, a powerful greenhouse gas linked to climate change.
- Polystyrene never disappears! Insead, it breaks down into microplastics, which enter our soil and water supply, and are eventually consumed by humans and animals.
- Microplastics research now shows it is a major human health hazard linked to infertility and endocrine disruption.
- Polystyrene is a fire hazard in the kitchen; an errant spark can ignite it.

Polystyrene may be cheaper than the alternatives, which may equate to a lower food price for your customers; but you are also offering them a potential health hazard. Is that a good trade off? There are affordable alternatives. And the good news is that the costs for more sustainable products are coming down!

Sysco now makes an Earth Choice line that has a Fiber Bagasse 8x8" covered container and a Kraft paper #4 container that can take the place of the Styrofoam tray. At the moment, even these may not be recyclable in all areas, and are only commercially compostable; but they are a much better choice than Styrofoam – less toxins and methane. (Links to products below.) **Green Paper Products** has biodegradable containers, as does **Paper Mart** online. The **Restaurant Supply House** in Sacramento carries Fineline Conserveware 9"x6"x3.1" hinged take-out container made from Bagasse, which is a recyclable, compostable sugar cane product. The cost at the time of this writing is \$66.99 for 250 pieces, or \$.27 each. Similar *Styrofoam* containers from Brenmarco.com are about \$.21 each - \$41.54 for a 200 pack – a small price difference considering the far better qualities.

As a responsible restaurateur, please think deeply about switching to recyclable containers for the health of your customers. They might be willing to pay a few cents more per item to safeguard their health. *Please put Customers First.*

Sincerely,

Links to products:

Sysco: <https://earthchoicepackaging.com/products/custom-products/7064539.htm>

Green Paper Products: <https://greenpaperproducts.com>

Paper Mart: <https://www.papermart.com/i/take-out-food-boxes-containers/19069>

Restaurant Supply: <https://www.restaurantsupply.com/fineline/fineline-disposable-catering-and-to-go-boxes-and-containers>

For more information, please contact the WasteNOT Plastics reduction team:

✉ wastenot.plastic@gmail.com 🌐 wastenot.plastic.wixsite.com/wastenotplastic